

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PRS-01 OC-06 CCO-00 OCL-00 L-03 OPR-02 /059 W
-----271049Z 129348 /13

R 270845Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2120
INFO AMCONSUL
SECDEF WASHDC
CSAF WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
CNO WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC
COMNAVSUPSYSCOM WASHDC
NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA
NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI
NAVMIO NORVA
HQ MAC SCOTT AFB

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 12524

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AFSP ET
SUBJECT: SPECIAL AIRLIFT JANUARY 1977

REF: ASMARA 1065

1. AS REFTEL SUGGESTS, ONE CIRITCAL FEATURE OF PROPOSED
SPECIAL AIRLIFT IS ADEQUATE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE BENEFIT
OF EPMG AUTHORITIES. ANOTHER NOT FULLY COVERED IN REFTEL IS,
AS WAS CASE LAST TIME AS WELL, QUESTION OF SECURITY IN
ASMARA.

2. THERE IS AT PRESENT NO BACKLOG OF SUPPLIES FOR
KAGNEW IN ADDIS AT ALL. MOREOVER, WE GET
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IMPRESSION FROM REFTEL THAT MATERIAL NOW IN EUROPE IS NOT
URGENTLY REQUIRED AT KAGNEW, NOR IS THERE INDICATION
THAT ALTERNATE MEANS OF TRANSPORTING EVERYTHING BUT
CABLE AND BOOM CRANE HAVE BEEN EXPLORED INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF
SHIPPING OUT EXCESS FROM KAGNEW. WITHOUT SOME INDICA-
TION A) OF URGENCY AND B) THAT MATERIAL CANNOT BE

HANDLED BY COMMERCIAL (READ ETHIOPIAN AIR LINES)
MEANS TO AND FROM EUROPE, WE ARE LIKELY FIND OURSELVES
ON WEAK GROUND IF WE APPROACH EPMG AUTHORITIES (I AM
ASSUMING MATERIAL TO BE SHIPPED FROM ASMARA IS NOT
CLASSIFIED AS WAS CASE LAST TIME), ASSUMING THEY TAKE
SAME POSITION AS BEFORE.

3. FACT IS, WE ARE RELUCTANT TO CONSIDER ANY MORE
C-141 FLIGHTS TO ASMARA THAN ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.
WE ARE STILL CONCERNED ABOUT INTERPRETATION ERITREAN
INSURGENTS MAY PUT ON SUCH FLIGHTS NOT SO MUCH IN TERMS
OF SAFETY OF INDIVIDUAL FLIGHTS, BUT RATHER IN TERMS
OF OUR PERSONNEL REMAINING THERE. FACT THAT WE HAD NO
PROBLEMS LAST TIME IS NOT NECESSARILY TRUE INDICATOR
FOR FUTURE FLIGHTS. I HAVE, HOWEVER, DISCUSSED POST-MISSION
SECURITY OF ASMARA PERSONNEL WITH CONGEN WHO BELIEVES THERE
HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN SECURITY SITUATION
VIS-A-VIS AMERICAN COMMUNITY SINCE SEPT '76 AIRLIFT.

4. IF, THEREFORE, A) PROPOSED FLIGHT IS MORE URGENT
THAN REFTEL WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE, B) ALTERNATE MEANS
HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY EXPLORED, C) ASMARA CONTINUES
BELIEVE SECURITY WILL NOT BE A FACTOR, AND D) CONCERNED
WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONCUR, WE WILL TAKE A CRACK AT
EPMG AUTHORITIES.
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